

June 3, 2004

CENTER FOR VETERINARY BIOLOGICS NOTICE NO. 04-12

Subject: Avian Influenza (H5 and H7 Subtypes) Vaccine Bank

To: Biologics Licensees
Veterinary Services Management Team
Directors, Center for Veterinary Biologics
Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS
State Veterinarians

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this notice is to inform interested parties that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, is soliciting bids for production of four subtypes of Avian Influenza Vaccine, Killed Virus.

II. BACKGROUND

Historically, regulatory restrictions have been in place limiting the use of avian influenza (AI) vaccines in the United States. Avian Influenza Vaccine, H5 Subtype, Killed Virus, and Avian Influenza Vaccine, H7 Subtype, Killed Virus, currently may only be used when and if their use is authorized by the USDA. Veterinary biologics manufacturers have not always found it cost effective to maintain large inventories of these products. Recent experiences in Connecticut and Italy have shown that AI vaccines can serve as a useful adjunct to AI eradication programs. Therefore, a bank of H5 and H7 AI vaccines available for this purpose would be beneficial to the U.S. poultry industry.

The USDA seeks a contract for the production of four Avian Influenza Vaccines, Killed Virus, each consisting of a different antigenic subtype, to be produced by a licensed United States Veterinary Biologics Establishment.

III. ACTION

Interested parties should refer to the following website for further information:

<http://www.eps.gov/spg/USDA/APHIS/Contracting/22%2DM%2DAPHIS%2D04/listing.html>

/s/ Richard E. Hill, Jr.

Richard E. Hill, Jr.
Director
Center for Veterinary Biologics